



Ham radio goes to church

The congregation of Community Baptist Church, Laurel, recently experienced a different kind of worship service. Bill Mullican, deacon and ham radio operator, and pastor/teacher Buster Wilson thought of giving the group a real contact with one of South America's missionaries. They erected a "home-grown" antenna from telephone wire and 2 x 4 planks. Then, on Bill's not so home-grown radio transceiver, they made the contact over 4,000 miles. Members were allowed to ask the missionary questions and share their faith. Pictured is Bill seated at the radio's controls. The Community fellowship features a Sunday night "body life" service and weekly verse-by-verse Bible study.

World hunger will be discussed at rally

John Cheyne, consultant for relief ministries at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will be a guest speaker during the annual Mississippi Baptist Men's Rally, August 20. Cheyne will talk about Baptist responses to world hunger.

The rally, which includes a banquet and a special conference, will take place at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson, on West Capitol Street near the Jackson Zoo. The banquet portion of the rally, which is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, begins at 5:30 p.m., and the conference portion begins at 7.

Tickets are required for the banquet, but not for the conference. Tickets to the banquet cost \$5 per person and may be purchased from the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. Only a limited number of tickets may be sold, so first come, first served.

Admission to the conference portion of the rally is free and seating is plentiful. The banquet speaker will be Barry Landrum, pastor of Bossier City, First Baptist Church in Louisiana. He went there in 1977 from the pastorate of First Church, Greenville, Miss.

Musical guests for the banquet will be the Hometown Reunion, a Jackson-based barbershop quartet. Members of the group are Wayne Derrick, Howard Flowers, Charles Stacy, and Bill Lumpkin.

Carl Bates will be featured, along with Cheyne, during the service following the banquet. He is senior pro-

fessor of pastoral ministries at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Bates went to the seminary from the pastorate of First Church, Charlotte, N.C. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned a master's degree in theology from Southern Seminary.

Sacred music artists R. L. and Beth Sigrest will join Bates and Cheyne during the service. They are based in Yazoo City and have appeared on most all of Southern Baptists' programs at one time or another.

Stampses reassigned from Nicaragua to Honduras

Stanley and Glenn Stamps, Mississippi missionaries to Nicaragua, have been transferred by the Foreign Mission Board to Honduras.

According to a letter from Thomas Tellez, executive secretary of the Nicaragua Baptist Convention, to Joe Bruce in Guatemala City, assistant area director for Middle America and the Caribbean, a full time presence of Southern Baptists from America must end for the present.

The letter states, "The present socio-political and ideological situation within the country does not recommend as prudent the coming of North American brothers as missionaries to work for long periods of time."

Tellez continues in the letter expressing appreciation to the Stamps and to

the Foreign Mission Board for their work. Other missionaries who have already left the country, also expect reassignment.

The Sandinistan National Liberation Front is the Nicaraguan government. The United States government has accused this government of helping guerillas in El Salvador. The Nicaraguans have accused the Reagan government of planning an invasion from Honduras. This has escalated tensions between the U.S. and Nicaraguan governments.

However, Don Kammerdiener, area director, stationed in Richmond, at the FMB, explained that there has not been a breach in relationships between Baptists in the two countries.

"We feel there is a good harmonious relationship that augurs well for the

future," said Kammerdiener. "We feel effective future ministries will be more likely in the context of short term activities rather than the presence of resident missionaries."

Stanley Stamps said that though the personal relationships between the missionaries and the Nicaraguan Baptists is still warm and cordial, the Nicaraguan Baptists "have come to feel the presence of North American missionaries might bring risks to the person of the missionaries and to the work."

Kammerdiener said that the Nicaraguan Baptists have already requested a person to work in the theological library in Managua for three to six months. He said the FMB will continue to invite Nicaraguan Baptists to activities of training and fellowship in the area and will continue to undergird the literature ministry financially.

The Stampses had been working in the literature ministry which has been taken over by the Nicaraguan Baptists.

The Stampses, who spent 10 weeks in Honduras during the June-August war in 1979 when the Sandinistas overthrew the Somoza government, had delayed their return from furlough to Nicaragua back in April of this year.

The Stampses used the intervening time in the States to visit Montana Baptist churches. Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson paid for their travel expenses and Montana Baptists provided local expenses for the Stampses to visit 16 churches, May 11-June 10. "We came away renewed, refreshed, and recommitted," said Stamps.

The Stamps will be reassigned to La

(Continued on page 2)

State giving is second highest

In June, Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,287,260 to their unified giving system, the Cooperative Program, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This was the second highest month for giving in the history of Mississippi Baptists, the highest being \$1,326,332 in December, 1981.

Mississippi Baptists have given a total of \$6,764,786 for the first six months of 1982.

This amount is 48.6 percent of the pro rata budget for the year and is 10.3 percent higher than income for the first half of 1981, which totaled \$6,130,782.

The money comes to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from the nearly 2,000 participating churches. One third of it goes to Southern Baptist causes outside Mississippi. The rest goes to fund missions and education programs within the state.

"This kind of giving is encouraging," said Kelly, who noted that the income tends to fluctuate during the year, but approaches the amount estimated to be given by Mississippi Baptists. "This giving shows that Mississippi Baptists have faith in the Cooperative Program, which is a device for helping to give the gospel message to every man everywhere."

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McAteer had White House backing to seek SBC action

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP) — An aide to President Reagan has confirmed that New Right leader Edward E. McAteer received White House encouragement to work for Southern Baptist Convention support of a constitutional amendment on school prayer.

Morton C. Blackwell, special assistant to the president, told Baptist Press that he and McAteer confer regularly and consulted before the New Orleans meeting. During that conversation, Blackwell said, McAteer predicted the SBC would endorse the prayer amendment.

Blackwell, whose primary duty is to line up support for Reagan policies as White House liaison to Christian and other religious groups and to conservative political organizations, told Baptist Press: "I thanked him very cordially."

In an interview immediately following the convention, McAteer told Baptist Press that a White House official,

presumably Blackwell, called him two weeks before the New Orleans meeting, asking him if the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs would seek a resolution opposing the amendment and, if it did, to help deliver a resolution of support.

McAteer is founder and president of Religious Roundtable, an organization formed three years ago to work for New Right causes and support the candidacy of Ronald Reagan for president. The Southern Baptist layman, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, claims credit for recruiting prominent preachers, including Jerry Falwell, to New Right politics.

During his post-convention interview, McAteer declared of the resolution supporting the prayer amendment, "God intervened here today."

He said the 3-1 vote approving the proposed amendment was due primarily to the oratorical skills of a pair of prominent pastors who urged passage during convention debate. Charles

Stanley of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and Morris Chapman, of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, "carried the day," McAteer said.

In his remarks to messengers, Stanley declared that the Supreme Court decisions of 1962 and 1963 were "only one step in the demoralizing of America." The Atlanta pastor, a member of the national executive board of Moral Majority, said Reagan's prayer amendment represents an effort "to protect our religious freedom" and warned, "If we continue to remain silent we will one day lose our freedom in our church houses as

well as the school houses."

Chapman told messengers that since the Supreme Court decisions 20 years ago, atheists, humanists and secularists have opposed prayer in schools. "That's not the company we need to be keeping," he declared. "It is not the company of the committed."

Chapman's remarks in particular were greeted with thunderous applause and shouts of approval. The vote to approve the resolution came within minutes.

Although McAteer did not speak during the debate on the prayer resolution, (Continued on page 2)

Baptist Record announces subscription rate hike

An across-the-board increase in subscription prices has been announced for the Baptist Record effective Sept. 1 by Don McGregor, editor (Editorial, Page 4).

"This was an exceedingly difficult decision to make and came only because there seemed to be no alternative in the face of tremendously increased postal rates in January of this year," McGregor said. "In spite of the

increase in postal rates, we have waited this long to increase subscription rates in the hope that the mailing cost could be softened," he added. He pointed out that the new every family plan rate of \$5.52 will be only 48 cents per month per family.

In addition to the every family plan rate of \$5.52, the club plan rate will be \$6.72, and the annual individual rate will be \$7.35.



Backyard Bible Church workers at the Winona Housing Authority area were Donette Blaine, Alan McNair, Stanley McNair, and Regina Randle.

Teams turn up 100 prospects in Carroll, Montgomery counties

Four college men doing Bold New Work, Summer Missions, in Carroll-Montgomery Association were successful doing Backyard Bible Clubs and people search, reports Nolan Houston, director of missions. The team working in the Winona Housing Authority area had an average attendance of 14 for one week in backyard Bible club, while the team in the Valley Hill area (working with Jim Gilbert, pastor of Valley Hill Baptist Church), had an average attendance of 19.

Daniel Hall of Clinton and Bruce Hennington of Terry had Tammye Avant help them in their Backyard Bible Club at Valley Hill but they did their people search themselves.

Stanley and Alan McNair, both of Jackson, had as their helpers Regina Randle and Donette Blaine, from First

Baptist, Winona, who helped five days, along with Tracy and Terry Ellison and Barbara Carter from Scotland Baptist Church, who worked in afternoons in people search.

These college youths are working through the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, under supervision of Ray Grissett. They have moved on to other associations and will return August 1 to do another week's work in Carroll-Montgomery Association. The teams turned up over 100 prospects for the churches there.

One team of college students stayed with the Nolan Houstons and the other with Russ McClelland, summer youth director, First Baptist, Winona, with both teams eating two meals per day with the Houstons.

Draper follows through on 'open letter' pledge

By Dan Martin

EULESS, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Draper met July 1 with denominational vice presidents, following through on a pledge he made in "An Open Letter to Southern Baptists," printed in this issue.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, a suburb of Dallas/Fort Worth, was elected president of the 13.8 million member denomination in the recently completed annual meeting in New Orleans. John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., was elected first vice president, and Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, was selected as second vice president.

Sullivan was nominated for president, but was eliminated on the first ballot. Draper went on to defeat Duke K. McCall, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., on the second ballot. Sullivan went on to win first vice president on a second ballot.

Sullivan and Garrison are seen as "moderates" in the denomination, while Draper has been identified as part of the "inerrancy" camp.

In his letter, Draper expressed "gratitude for the high privilege of representing" Southern Baptists, and said he "did not accept the position lightly, but seriously and prayerfully."

"I realize these are days of great stress for the entire Christian community and especially for our Southern Baptist Convention. I understand the tremendous pressures we're facing," he wrote, noting both his father and grandfather were Southern Baptist ministers. "Because of this background, I have a grasp of where we have been and where we must go."

"Our major challenge now is to join hands and hearts to complete Bold Mission Thrust. To that end, I pledge myself this year as . . . president."

Draper's letter did not mention criticism that immediate past president Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., did not consult with his vice presidents and did not take into consideration their suggestions on key appointments, but did say that he values the "suggestions and guidance" of the two officers.

SBC bylaws require the president to appoint the members of the committee

on committees and the resolutions committee, "in consultation with" the vice presidents. Efforts to change the process in recent years have failed.

Of the July 1 meeting, Draper said the session "was so helpful we are going to do this often. In fact, I want to meet every other month or so. I feel they are going to be an invaluable help to me and a help to the whole work of the convention."

(Continued on page 3)

From: Jimmy Draper, President, Southern Baptist Convention

An open letter to Southern Baptists

I want to express to all of you my gratitude for the high privilege of representing you as president of our convention. I do not accept the position lightly, but seriously and prayerfully.

I realize these are days of great stress for the entire Christian community and especially for our Southern Baptist Convention. I understand the tremendous pressures we're facing. Both my father and my grandfather pastored Southern Baptist churches for a total of 90 years. Because of this background, I have a grasp of where we have been and where we must go. Our major challenge now is to join hands and hearts to complete Bold Mission Thrust. To that end I pledge myself this year as your president.

I need your prayers. Pray for the two vice-presidents, John Sullivan and Gene Garrison. We will meet in Euless several times during the year, to pray together and to discuss plans. I value the suggestions and guidance of these two co-workers. Pray also for the appointments which I must make. The individuals selected must have impeccable credentials both as Christians and as Southern Baptists. Their names will be released well in advance of the convention in Pittsburgh. I pray that these actions — consultation with the vice-presidents and early release of appointees — will help to build confidence and trust among us all so that we can convene in Pittsburgh next year with a renewed vision of reaching our world for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because reckless accusations and slanderous charges have no place among Christians, I am determined not to dissipate my energies in responding to such behavior. I urge each of you to join me in prayer that we will turn our energies instead against Satan and the forces of evil. Truly we are in a spiritual warfare, and we must put on the whole armor of God in order to claim the victory that Christ has already won for us. May God lead us as we continue to be an even greater army for him in these days.

Again, thank you for letting me be your president this year.

State worker resigns in registration probe

By Dan Martin

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—A state denominational employee has resigned and four churches (out of 35,000) have been publicly cited in an investigation into registration irregularities at the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention.

Jim Thomas, 48, church training director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, resigned June 23, at the request of MBC Executive Director Rheubin South, after an investigation revealed Thomas presented false credentials to register as a messenger at the annual meeting of the 13.8-million-member denomination.

Thomas, a member of First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Mo., was one of ten persons asked to return ballots and other credentials after it was discovered their churches had more messengers than permitted under Article III of the SBC Constitution which allows a maximum of 10 messengers per church.

In addition to the Jefferson City church, which registered 11 messengers, including Thomas, the other churches publicly cited for having too many messengers were: Riverside Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., 15 messengers; Second Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., 13; and First Baptist Church of Tucker, Ga., 11. Pastors of those churches said the errors were unintentional.

Registration Secretary Lee Porter, of Nashville, Tenn., reported the 125th annual meeting of the SBC registered the second highest number of messen-

gers ever, 20,438, second only to the 1978 meeting in Atlanta, when 22,872 messengers registered.

He will write the churches cited since it is not a matter between the SBC and individuals, but between the denomination and churches.

Thomas told the *Word and Way*, news journal of the MBC, he was not elected a messenger from the First Baptist Church, but his former associate, Gil Brink, was. Thomas said when he heard Brink joined a church in California, where he has accepted a new position, and was no longer eligible to be a messenger from the Missouri church, Thomas signed his pastor's name to a letter certifying he had been elected.

However, Brink notified First Church he could no longer be a messenger and Mrs. Nelson Duke, wife of the pastor, was certified as the tenth messenger. Earlier, the congregation elected her as first alternate.

Pastor Nelson Duke, a member of the SBC Executive Committee, said he was astonished when the church was cited for violating registration rules. "We had been very careful to elect only 10 messengers and then some alternates," Duke said.

"I am truly sorry about the whole affair, but the church was careful to abide by the rules," he added.

In an interview with *Word and Way*, Thomas expressed sorrow and regret for registering illegally, calling his actions "the most stupid thing I've ever done."

Porter told Baptist Press the inves-

tigation is continuing. "I think we are going to uncover some more irregularities," he said.

Porter said the matter of registration "is a question of integrity. I am not playing political games or trying to politicize the registration. What I am trying to do is to insure the integrity of the registration and balloting process."

He said he is going to "follow through" with the registration investigation, and that if he uncovers other irregularities, he will "name names" and publicly cite churches.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Preschool Workshop is scheduled

Denominational leaders in the area of pre-school curriculum work will be among the resource leaders for the

14th annual Pre-school Workshop scheduled at Mississippi College July 19-24.

Taking part in the week-long workshop will be Bob Couch, supervisor, pre-school curriculum section,

Sunday School Department, Sunday

School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Janet Kemp, director of the Pre-school Education Center at New Orleans Seminary; Mrs. Doris Rouse, a teacher in the Metropolitan Nashville Tenn. Public Schools and a conference leader at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Assemblies; and Mrs. Kaye Keeton, a kindergarten day care special worker for the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Among the topics to be covered during special interest groups each day will be "Personal Preparation for My Job," "Professional Preparation," "Behaviors and Guidance," "Learning and Disabilities—Recognizing and Refer," "Families in Crisis," "How Children Learn," "Improving Oral Communication Skills," and "Nutrition Education."

Special general sessions during the mornings will cover such topics as "Preschool Education for the Future," "Puppetry and Dramatic Play," and "Assessment Skills."

1982-83 volunteer mission projects

Mississippi Projects

Baptist Children's Village—Through the mission effort of Mississippi Baptists, we have been able to renovate six of the India Nunnery cottages, leaving six needing painting, flooring and varying degrees of construction work. In addition, this fall and winter we will need assistance in adapting facilities for cottage use at several out of Jackson locations.

Brick or block the front of the Baptist Mission Center in Jackson—Presently, the front of the Baptist Mission Center is picture windows that are broken easily. There is an urgent need to brick this area up and put in a couple of small windows. Due to the location and duration of this project, it would possibly need to be completed in one day. The Baptist Mission Center is a large warehouse type building where clothing and food are stored and shelved for distribution through our emergency and work of the Hinds-Madison Association. Six to ten men are needed, as soon as possible. You would need some knowledge and ability in brick laying.

Home Mission Projects

Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs in Northboro, Massachusetts—The start of new work in Southern New Hampshire for 1982. Survey work was to be conducted in the spring to be followed up with Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs in the summer. The purpose of the project is to begin building public relations in the communities for new churches. Skills needed are experience in Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs.

Construction of first unit in Danville, California—The Gate Chapel Baptist Church of Danville, California is southeast of Oakland approximately thirty-five miles and is in a growing community. Most of the people work in the bay area. This is a growing church with 26 regular attenders. They are experiencing weekly growth in numbers. This church plans to build its first unit sometime this summer.



Mission youth team members and their trainers are, left to right: Don Hicks, Daniel Hall, Keith Ward, J. Ray Grissett, Alan McNair, Marty Harper, Lavon Hatten, Stanley McNair, and Bruce Hennington.

Mission Youth teams work in six state associations

Mission youth teams working in six associations of Mississippi nine weeks this summer in Backyard Bible Clubs and People Search got their training in a workshop at the Baptist Building in Jackson, before they began June 6.

A team of four young men, Daniel Hall, Stanley McNair, Alan McNair, and Bruce Hennington, worked in Hinds-Madison and Carroll-Montgomery associations in June and are due to be back in Carroll-Montgomery Aug. 1-6.

During July these four were in Gulf Coast Association two weeks, and are now in the first of a two-weeks stay in Itawamba Association. Then July 25-30 they will be in Lamar Association.

Warren Association has a two-person team working all summer — Marty Harper and Keith Ward. These

two joined the others for the training workshop.

Those who assisted in the mission team training were Judd Allen and Mose Dangerfield, consultants, Sunday School department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Don Hicks, Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, Sunday School Approved Worker.

Supervisors in the associations where the four-man team is working include Cliff Shipp, Danny Rutland, Nolan Houston, Bobby Perry, Lester James, Phil Harris, and Richard Miley. Lavon Hatten, director of missions, Warren County, is supervisor there.

J. Ray Grissett, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has been coordinating the project.

Bloody triple murder shocks Chicago Baptists

By Jim Newton
CHICAGO (BP) — The triple murder of a Chicago Southern Baptist pastor, his wife and five-year-old son has left Southern Baptists in Chicago in shock. Everett Anthony, the director of missions for Chicago Baptist Association, said.

Ron Behm, pastor of South Shore Baptist Church, a black congregation active in the association, his wife, Barbara, and son, Matthew, were found stabbed to death by Chicago police at North Avenue Beach early July 1.

Later in the day, Behm's stepson, 26-year-old Herschel Jackson, confessed to the triple slaying after question-

ing by police. He was charged with three counts of murder.

According to police reports, Jackson, son of Barbara Behm by a previous marriage, had earlier argued with his parents because of her insistence that the unemployed man be home by 10 o'clock each night and that he stay off the streets.

Behm, white pastor of a black Southern Baptist church, was working on an enclosed porch Tuesday evening when Jackson confronted him. Police said Jackson told them he was outraged by the curfew and stabbed the pastor a dozen times with a seven-inch butcher knife and then stabbed to death five-year-old Matthew sleeping in a bedroom.

Police said Jackson told them he then watched television until Barbara, who is black, returned at 10 p.m., and murdered her in the living room.

Police records indicate Jackson had been arrested three times in recent years for disorderly conduct, possession of marijuana, and for resisting arrest.

Anthony urged Baptists to pray for the family and church, and especially for the Behm's nine-year-old daughter, Rhonda, who was away at church camp at the time of the murders.

Cothen recuperates following surgery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Grady C. Cothen, 61, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, underwent successful urological surgery June 29 at Baptist Hospital.

The surgery was not related to the March 1980 stomach surgery for cancer when 75 percent of his stomach was removed. There was no evidence of malignancy found during this surgery.

McAteer had White House

(Continued from page 1)

tion, he played a major role in shepherding it through the resolutions committee, frequently advising committee chairman Norris W. Sydnor Jr., a Religious Roundtable leader in Maryland, and monitoring the panel's proceedings throughout the nearly 25 hours of committee deliberations. The vote within the committee to report out favorably the prayer resolution was 9-1, with only California layman David Maddox opposing it.

Sydnor's dependence on McAteer's advice also was visible during the floor debate on the committee's 24 proposed resolutions, when McAteer repeatedly offered suggestions on the platform to Sydnor and other committee members.

McAteer also said he did not regret the convention's refusal to go along with a separate resolution proposed by the committee to censure Baptist Joint Committee executive director James M. Dunn for criticizing Reagan's proposal.

"I'd like to impact the man for good," McAteer said. "I'm not for overkill." He is eager to give Dunn a new chance, he added, if the Washington leader will "repent."

(Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

Stamps move

(Continued from page 1)

Ceiba in Honduras on the Caribbean opposite the Bay Island. He will go as a field missionary, taking the place for the next year of Hoyt and Louise Roberts who are returning to the States for furlough. After the first year, Stamps said he and Glenna may move into the interior of Honduras for pioneer work.

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FBC, Jackson to begin Hudgins preaching chair

July 18 will be W. Douglas Hudgins Appreciation Day at First Baptist Church, Jackson, where Hudgins was pastor for 23 years and where he is pastor emeritus.

A part of the involvement for the special day for Hudgins has been the establishment of the Dr. W. Douglas Hudgins Chair

Hudgins of Preaching at First Baptist Church. The chair will not be funded through the church budget, but church members and friends are being encouraged through a resolution adopted by the church to make contributions through memorial gifts or other sources. The plan is to use the interest income from the principal to "defray the expense of an outstanding preacher to be brought annually to Jackson for the benefit of the church and the community at large. The annual event is to be of the nature of either teaching or preaching the Word of God, in recognition of the emphasis given to this ministry by Dr. W. Douglas Hudgins during his long and fruitful ministry in First Baptist Church."

Proclamations by Dale Danks, mayor of Jackson, and William Winter, governor of Mississippi, are expected to be presented as a part of the events of the day. There is also to be a reception for Hudgins from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Hudgins' sermons are to be preserved in the library of the church, some in manuscript form and some

taped. In addition, seven of his sermons are to be preserved in a bound volume. Five of them are from what has been termed the "heart of the gospel," or the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross. There will be two others included.

Hudgins' son, Jimmy, will present special music during the morning worship service, when Hudgins will be honored. The pastor, Earl Craig, will preside and deliver the morning message.

Members of the church, Ralph Hester and Buddy Lloyd, are chairman, vice-chairman respectively of the appreciation day planning.

Hudgins has served as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, as vice-president of the convention, as a member of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as chairman of its Executive Committee, as chairman of the building committee for the Baptist Building, as chairman of the fund-raising committee for the restoration of Gulfshore Assembly, as acting executive secretary of the Convention Board in 1968 and 1969, and as executive secretary from 1969 to 1973 among many other denominational posts. He is executive secretary emeritus.

As president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1960 to 1962 he was a member of the Committee to Study Baptist Statement of Faith and Message from 1960 to 1963 and served as vice-chairman.

Mrs. Hudgins died Sept. 15, 1981.

Ragland leaves Beirut; makes plans to come home

By Bill Webb

MANSOURIYE, Lebanon (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Jim Ragland left west Beirut, Lebanon, July 7 with plans to return to the United States July 11. He was staying with nine fellow missionaries in Mansouriyeh, outside Beirut.

Ragland, who has provided shelter to refugees and operated a clinic for the ill and wounded in Beirut Baptist School almost since Israeli warplanes first attacked the city June 4, plans to attend his son John's wedding June 24. He was the last Southern Baptist missionary to leave the embattled city.

He will be reunited with his wife, Leola, who flew back to the United States two weeks after the conflict began.

The night before Ragland left west Beirut was a bad night for shelling, he said in a telephone interview. None hit the school, which now houses about 40 refugee families, but some fell within a few blocks.

Student groups and others continue to provide food packets for refugees staying in school and other public buildings. Though few fresh fruits and vegetables are available on the streets, "there do seem to be ample stocks of canned goods" (in west Beirut)," he said.

Ragland left west Beirut July 3 to attend the monthly meeting of the Lebanon Mission in Mansouriyeh. He stayed temporarily on the east side when Israeli soldiers closed off border crossings to the west sector.

He was allowed back in July 5 only because he convinced the border

guard he was a clergyman. Re-entry was virtually a miracle, he said.

"I felt lonesome, like a fish out of water," Ragland said, explaining why he returned to west Beirut temporarily. "I wanted to see the people one last time before I left and to see what was happening there."

Back inside, Ragland said he discovered both determination to defend the city and optimism that an agreement might still be reached.

Men in the church near the school will look after the school while he is gone, Ragland said. Many of the church families have already left for east Beirut.

Some of the other Southern Baptist missionaries still in Lebanon are also making plans to leave the country.

Missionary Wayne Fuller, whose wife, Frances, left during the first week of the conflict, will come to the United States July 17. He will accompany Nancie Wingo, a single missionary, and Ashleigh Dunn, the daughter of missionaries Pete and Pat Dunn. David and Maxine King are planning to return to the United States later in July.

(Webb writes for the FMB)

RA camps nearly filled

All weeks of R.A. Camp at Central Hills have been filled except resident camp Aug. 9-13 and Lad/Dad Weekend July 23-24.

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Growth takes aggressive strategy

By Tim Nicholas

Ron Lewis is in business to teach church members that the only thing that can prevent church growth is lack of population.

But, according to the head of Church Growth Designs, which operates out of Nashville, "for the most part, most people do not believe their church can grow again."

Lewis, a bearded former employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and former director of church development for Illinois Baptists, calls his programs "Adventures in Sunday School Growth." He held two recently for Mississippi Baptists courtesy the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department. He spoke with the **Baptist Record** in an interview following one of the sessions.

"The adventure for me is trying again — not waiting for it to come to you," said Lewis of the things he tries to teach participants. "For most people, doing anything aggressive is outside the norm."

He explained that he tries to get par-

ticipants in his meetings "to move from the traditional approach of 'y'all come' to an aggressive strategy."

But he said that there are prices to pay for church growth. One is in money. A church, he said, "won't reach unbelievers unless you spend large sums of money." The average church, he said, is reaching children and church members, but that "unbelievable sums of money are needed to reach into the marketplace." He noted that advertising is invaluable and that no church in America is going to grow without it for long.

The other price is in things that affect the members in the church. "There are sacrifices," said Lewis. He mentioned traditions and symbols that get in the way of church growth. He said it is difficult for a person who married in a church building to realize that perhaps the only way to grow is to relocate the church. He said other factors affect the church member such as the possibility of newcomers, sitting in "their" pew, taking "their" parking

place, or causing "their" class to be divided.

Lewis said that among Southern Baptists, where he spends most of his consulting time, about 78 percent of the pastors believe the number one priority of the church is to reach the world for Christ. Studies show, he said, that only 11 percent of the lay persons believe that is the priority.

He said that the church is the only organization in the world that is designed to "win the world."

Since the local church is the basic resource, he said, he believes Southern Baptists need to change some priorities. "You can spend so much money on a university or a hospital and there is no money left to reach the world — except in a secondary way — our secondary ways are taking more of our time and money and personnel." Lewis said that is like the tail wagging the dog.

Lewis said that there is no set formula for growing a church. Basically, any list should include a belief that the church growth is the will of God;

"somewhere your prayer ministry has to be included," and to turn a church around, "you must get into small group structures in order to get that desire to grow."

Keeping that desire is often tough on pastors. "In the Bible they nearly always kill the prophets," said Lewis. "As you look at the realities of pastors, it's tough to keep the dream alive." Some, said Lewis, wind up their pastoral years coasting on out. However, there are some men who "just can't live by that," he said, men who "believe the church is here by divine appointment."

Lewis said that he believes it is time "for the church to rise up in the midst of economic chaos and show the people there is an alternative — and prove to the world that God's ways are not tied to men's circumstances."

He listed five needs that a church can meet in today's society — loneliness, hopelessness, purposelessness, fear, and emptiness. "If the church will speak to those needs," said Lewis, "it will reach people."

Vicksburg's John McCall will retire after 30 years

Thirty years and two days after he began it, John G. McCall will end his pastorate at Vicksburg's First Baptist Church.

McCall, 64, made his announcement June 27 from the pulpit of the church he's served since Oct. 15, 1952. He asked and received approval for his retirement to become effective on Sunday, Oct. 17, this year.

"The decision that I share with you today," McCall read in his letter to the congregation, "has not been an easy or sudden one. Rather, it has been made after earnest prayer and after long and serious consideration of what is best for the cause of Christ, for this church and for me and my family."

That family includes his wife, Wilma, and sons John G. and Dennis. The elder son, married, is minister of music at First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn. Dennis, who holds an undergraduate degree and a master's in horticulture from Mississippi State University, is now working toward a master's in religious education, at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Many who knew McCall outside his Vicksburg pastorate were reacting with words of congratulation. "John has served our convention very well," said Clifton Perkins who was a classmate of McCall's at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and who is director of the Mississippi Baptist Church-

Minister Relations Department.

"John McCall's best quality is his compassion for people," said Perkins. "He's a people's man and he's been that way ever since I've known him." McCall is a past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and has served in many capacities with the Southern Baptist Convention, including its executive committee.

Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College, said that McCall, who served two terms (12 years) on the board of the Clinton school, including a term as vice chairman, "has served efficiently and effectively and has meant a great deal in the life of the college."

McCall was born in Quitman, Ga., and moved with his family to nearby Madison, Fla., when he was 7. His mother was a teacher and his father and grandfather were attorneys. After receiving a degree from John B. Stetson University in Deland, Fla., McCall went to Louisville where he received his doctorate in theology. He also took post-doctorate studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

His studies were interrupted in 1943 when he entered the Army where he remained in service three years. For 18 months, he was chaplain with the 94th Infantry Division in Europe.

McCall has held pastorates in Kentucky and Florida and it was after three and one-half years as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Mooresville, N.C., that he came to Vicksburg.

(Reprinted from the Vicksburg Evening Post.)



Large Church Stewardship Conference Record keeping among topics

The Baptist Sunday School Board's computerized recordkeeping system will be among topics to be discussed at a conference at Lake Tiak O'Khata, July 19-20.

Mike Overcash of the Sunday School Board will discuss how churches can use computerization for better recordkeeping at the "Mississippi Baptist Large Church Stewardship Conference" at the resort camp near Louisville.

Joining Overcash on the program will be Robert Kilgore of the Home Mission Board, Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Tex.; William O'Brien, vice president of the Foreign Mission Board; and John Rush, a staffer with the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission.

Kilgore will discuss "The Church, the Economic Situation, and Inflation." Moore will speak on "Growing a Giving Church." O'Brien will discuss "Global Missions: the Holy Spirit and

Human Strategy," and Rush will discuss "Major Characteristics of the SBC Budget Programs and Related Resources."

A number of Mississippians will provide input for the program which is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Stewardship Department. These are John Alexander and Julius Thompson, who staff the department; Earl Kelly, MBCB executive secretary; John Armistead, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo; Claude Anthony, business manager for Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Ferrell Blankenship, minister of education, First Church, Hattiesburg; Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson; Earl Craig, pastor of First Church, Jackson; Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi; and Kenneth Lundquist, business manager of First Church, Jackson.

Other program personalities include John Marshall, minister of administration and education at First Church, Laurel; Joe McKeever, pastor of First Church, Columbus; Charles Myers, pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson; and Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, Louisville.

Stalneckers will sing at Gulfshore SS sessions



The Stalneckers

The Stalneckers—Bette and Ed and their two sons and daughters-in-law—will be presenting special music for the four Sunday School Conferences at the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Mississippi, the weeks of July 26-31 and August 2-7.

The services are at 8 each morning

and at 7 each evening. The Stalneckers will also present a mini-concert of sacred music on Tuesday and Friday evening at 7 p.m. All services are held in the auditorium on the assembly grounds.

Although the sleeping accommodations at Gulfshore are full, except for the first session, July 26-28, and for Aug. 2-4, commuters are invited to any of the above worship times or the Leadership Conferences which will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 until noon.

Bryant M. Cummings, state Sunday School director, states that, due to last minute cancellations, 30 reservations are now available for the Sunday School week, Aug. 2-4, at Gulfshore. Write: Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Stone will lead child care clinic

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, will host a one-day kindergarten/day care clinic Aug. 17.

The intensive clinic, lasting from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 that afternoon, is sponsored by the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Conference coordinator and leader of sessions is Jane Stone, former director of weekday early childhood education for Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson. She is author of "Science Experiences for the Young Child," which will be reviewed during the conference.

Other clinic leaders will be Jean Shaw, Barbara Halbert, and Ray Evette. The clinic will have a book store.

A registration fee of \$5 per person will be charged to cover the cost of lunch, refreshments, and materials provided. Persons may register by sending check to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Phone 968-3800.

Staff Changes

First Church, Winona, has called Jerry W. Mixon as pastor. He has resigned the pastorate of Goss Baptist Church near Columbia to move to Winona later this month. Mixon, native of Hattiesburg, is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. William Carey awarded to him an honorary

Doctor of Divinity degree in 1975.

Jerry Massey has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Horn Lake, to accept a call as pastor of First Baptist Church, Amory. In Northwest Baptist Association, he was associational Sunday School director.

Charles Malone has accepted a call from Bay Vista Baptist Church, Gulf Coast, to become minister of music and activities. He formerly served in East Philadelphia Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

Gary Nichols has moved from Tyler-town to First Church, Long Beach as minister of education and visitation.

Senior adults at conclaves will hear new musical

Program features for two senior adult conclaves in August at Gulfshore will include evening messages by William Hinson, pastor, First Church, New Orleans, and morning Bible study by Wilbur Swartz, retired professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary.

Conclave I is scheduled for Aug. 16-18 and Conclave II will be held Aug. 19-21. Reservations are still available for both programs.

The new senior adult musical, "Kingdom Within," will be presented during the first conclave by First Church, Gulfport, under direction of Jimmy Cutrell, minister of music; and during the second by Parkway, Jackson, under minister of music, Mike Smith, who will head the music team for Conclave II.

Hinson will appear in two other program segments, speaking on the subject, "Painting Your Own Life's Rainbow." This is an adaptation of a presentation on motivation he makes, to civic groups in lecture tours and which is also available on tape.

Working with Smith in Conclave II will be Tommy Byrd and Jerry Green of the Parkway music staff, along with Myrnia Loy Hedgepeth, music evangelist. The music team for Con-

clave I is composed of Larry Black, Becky Payne, and Eva Aultman Hart, all music staff members of First Church, Jackson.

Meditation features will be led by Sarah Taylor and Billie Buckley, pastors' wives from Arlington Heights, Pascagoula, and Parkway, Natchez.

Harold Kitchings will present the work of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and Paul Lee, one of the program coordinators, will lead a one-session leadership conference in addition to making a general program appearance discussing enlarging horizons in senior adult ministry. Glenn Shows of First, Clinton, will direct fellowship activities.

H. H. Hargrove dies in Texas

Hubbard Hoyt Hargrove, former pastor of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church in Waco, Tex., died in Waco, July 3.

Hargrove was born in Shubuta, Miss., July 27, 1895. He was a graduate of Mississippi College, the University of Colorado, and earned master and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary. Howard Payne University gave him an honorary doctorate.

With the exception of brief pastorates in Mississippi, Hargrove's ministry was in Texas. He was pastor emeritus of Coggin Avenue Church in Brownwood and served on numerous convention-related committees.

He was author of *At the Master's Feet, Personalities Around the Cross, The New Testament in Scripture and History, and Jesus Christ, the Eternal Same*. His booklet, *The New Testament Church*, has been translated for use on the mission field.

Survivors include his wife, the former Theta Ida Plunkett, two sons, two daughters, 11 grandchildren and a great-grandchild, one brother, J. E. Hargrove of Jackson, Miss., and three sisters including Miss Glinda Hargrove and Mrs. Therman Lewis both of Jackson.

Draper follows..

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3
Thursday, July 15, 1982

(Continued from page 1)

The Texas pastor said the three discussed "a lot of different things that relate to the convention" including "some mechanical things" like presiding, order of business, facilitating discussions, resolutions.

Also, he said, "we have discussed the fact that I will be making some appointments in the next few months. We talked about the kind of people we want to serve on those committees. We have not discussed names."

Draper added "we have been getting to know each other better. It has been a very fruitful time." He commented not much time had been spent discussing theology. "We are all conservative. There has not really been much need to discuss any details of that."

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APPOINTMENT DATE: September, 1982 or as soon as possible.

CLOSING DATE: July 20, 1982.

SALARY AND RANK: Senior professional rank. Salary is competitive, dependent upon rank, qualifications and experience.

APPLY TO: Dr. David W. Knight, Dean, College of Applied Arts and Sciences; Wayland Baptist University; Plainview, Texas 79072. Phone: (806) 296-5521.

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Editorials . . .

School prayer and confusion

The prayer in public school issue somehow has become tremendously confused.

Southern Baptists historically have been strong proponents of complete separation of church and state. In fact, it was Baptists (before the days of Southern Baptists) who were responsible for the idea being made a part of the national Constitution.

It is true that our nation was founded on the basis of a belief in a Creator; that our money bears the motto, "In God We Trust," and that sessions of Congress are opened by prayer.

These concepts were put into being early in our history, and evidently our early leaders did not feel that they violated the constitutional requirement that Congress not make any laws "respecting an establishment of religion." In the early days in the United States the practice of religion generally meant, evidently, the worship of God.

Things have changed a great deal. The United States accepts more immigrants than all the other nations of the world combined, and they bring their religious concepts with them. A worldwide welcome and religious liberty are cornerstones of our national posture. This has complicated our lives greatly, however.

So a simple statement in the Constitution and a simple decision by the

Supreme Court that governmental or school officials shall in no way be involved in public school prayer have become so twisted and misused that a reasonable position seems almost impossible.

First, lower courts began deciding there should be no outward manifestation of prayer at all in public schools. The Supreme Court still stood as a bulwark of reason and indeed did overturn a lower court decision in Missouri, making it possible for college students to gather voluntarily in prayer groups on the campus. The high court reversed itself a bit later, however, when it ruled that high school students in New York could not be afforded the same privilege. This to some degree put the court in the position of deciding at what age a person should be allowed to practice his religion publicly. Yet the Constitution says that Congress shall not prohibit "the free exercise" of religion. And the Supreme Court is supposed to interpret only.

To compound the issue, some religious groups, including some Baptists, began to call for the "return of prayer" to the classroom. Among these groups were such organizations as the Moral Majority, and the effort became known as the religious new right.

Suddenly, just before the Southern

Baptist Convention last month, President Reagan announced that he was going to push for an amendment to the Constitution that would eliminate any opposition to voluntary prayer in the public school. Then Vice-President George Bush abandoned his topic during an appearance before the Pastors' Conference in New Orleans and spoke in defense of the religious new right.

Bush said that the Constitution was meant only to keep the government out of the church, not the church out of the government.

Bush was wrong. History will bear out the fact that it was the persecution tactics of established church groups in the early days that caused Baptists to fear the influence and power of an established church.

Now we find (story on page 1) that the President himself has entered into an effort to influence Southern Baptists to support his proposed legislation calling for an amendment to the Constitution. No doubt, this is the first time in Southern Baptist history that such a thing has happened. It worked, for the Southern Baptist Convention did indeed take a stand in favor of such an amendment.

Let there be no misunderstanding. This paper is not opposed to students in any school gathering by their own volition and without any sort of official

sponsorship for prayer groups on campus at times when there are no school activities for those involved. There should not be a need for a constitutional amendment for that to be possible. As does SBC President Jimmy Draper, we favor court remedies first.

According to the news item on Page 1, Ed McAteer, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, became the liaison between the White House and the Southern Baptist Convention. Through a series of circumstances a friend of McAteer's, Norris W. Snyder of Maryland, became chairman of the resolutions committee. McAteer reportedly played a major role in the efforts of the resolutions committee and in consultation during debate on the resolution by the convention.

Shortly before the convention, James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, spoke rather harshly of the President's efforts at amending the Constitution. The resolutions committee sought to censure him for it, but the convention refused to go along. On this issue McAteer has taken it upon himself to provide judgment. As is pointed out in the story, he is for giving Dunn another chance, if he will repent.

The convention already has faced that issue and made its decision to make no statement. That is how the issue must remain.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

A "natural-born" teacher

"Welcome! My house is your house!" With that, Mrs. Ruth Ellis hugged me and set before me a dish of luscious strawberries and cream. Warmth of her alto voice and friendliness in her brown eyes told me she meant it.

She leaned a bit on her cane, but her white hair was done in a becoming style; I'd never have guessed she's 88. "Don't drive on the Natchez Trace this late," she insisted. "Call W.D., and tell him you're spending the night here." So I did, and had a marvelous time.

As public school teacher and Sunday School teacher, she has touched hundreds of lives. Last October, First Baptist Church, Mathiston, gave her a plaque and a "book of letters," in appreciation for her 70 years of teaching Sunday School (at Blythe Creek and Mathiston).

A Sunday School class of teen-agers stands out in her memory. As with every class, she presented the plan of salvation. Then during a revival, 14 of the 15 on roll made professions of faith. The 15th went off to fight in World War II. "His mother and I prayed that he might be spared, and that he might come to Christ. Our prayers were answered."

Since 1975 she has read the Bible through every year. "My mother always read three chapters a day."

Her small book-filled brick house in Mathiston stands beside the two-story house where she and her late husband lived. "Vertigo and arthritis and high blood pressure compete for my attention," she joked. "Cataracts limit my reading now, but I have more time to think. The sunset of life requires more praying and thinking and inspiration than the sunrise. There is not as much incentive toward things of the world."

A hundred miles from home that morning, I had remembered my camera—still on my dining table. So Julia, Mrs. Ellis' granddaughter, and her husband, Bob Faulk, music director at First Baptist, Mathiston, came to take her picture. They brought Miranda, age two months. Besides these, I learned, she has 18 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; four daughters (all studied at Blue Mountain—two got degrees there and two at State); and one son (owner of the store his father established). Another son died at 51.

Ruth Hester (Ellis) was born in Choctaw County, a "natural-born" teacher. "My father believed in kids' working on the farm more than in their

going to school." Though she failed to get all the formal education she desired, her brilliant mind soaked up wisdom and knowledge from experience and wide reading. High score on a teachers' exam got her a certificate and a job in a one-teacher school that she kept 10 years. "I loved it!"

One summer session at a teachers' normal school she met another teacher, Noah Ellis, whom she married. He died 27 years ago. During World War II, she started a long stint of teaching history in high school at Mathiston. "I liked to have the students tell me in their words what the lesson meant to them. If the pupil has not received anything, you actually have not done any teaching."

At least three times she was on the pulpit committee of her church. Always excited about missions, she was WMU director 35 years. Now she keeps in touch with shut-ins by phone. Senior adult women meet at her house monthly for WMU, and Bible study. "Old folks here who can't get out at night go to prayer meeting Wednesday mornings," she said. "I like that good quiet worship time."

She continued, "When we give all of ourselves to the Lord, and ask him to use us in his plans, then he will bless us, and we will see spiritual growth. Sometimes we (church members) just work on our own plans, not God's." When she was associational WMU director, Webster County WMUs doubled from 3 to 6. On a reviewing council with James Drane (then Webster director of missions), the two listened to an older GA explain how to be saved. They asked if she had experienced this in her life; as a result, the girl realized her own need for salvation.

"My husband always encouraged me," she recalled. "Husbands are really helping the missionary cause themselves when they encourage wives in their mission activities." Together she and Noah owned a grocery and dry goods store. While bookkeeper for the store, she taught herself to type, and learned sign language so she could communicate with deaf customers. She retired at 77.

As I was leaving her house, she gave me a crocheted, cross-shaped bookmark. "Crocheting settles my nerves," she said. She's made — and given away — 100 afghans.

"I'm thankful for long life," she said, "with the many opportunities and pleasures afforded me, and I am happy. As I told one of my granddaughters: 'Life should be balanced. Take care of your spiritual, mental, social, and physical health, to be happy and at your best.'"

Book Reviews

HURRY BEFORE SUNDOWN by William G. Tanner (Broadman, paper, 144 p.). "I can still hear my father saying to me, 'Hurry and get home before sundown,'" writes Tanner. Hence the title. *Hurry Before Sundown*, underscoring the urgency of the need for all Christians to get involved in missions. He presents some crises and opportunities facing the church in the closing years of the 20th century. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board, SBC, is a former pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport.

Illustrations make the book highly readable. Tanner's sharing of his own personal sense of mission is infectious. —AWM

PICKING UP THE PIECES by Clyde Colvin Besson (Mott Media, paper, 209 pp., \$5.95). In this penetrating book about shattered marriages, the author probes for reasons for marriage failure and then helps to lead the hurting person out of despair, to a restored feeling of human worth and dignity. He not only seeks to aid the divorced and widowed; he helps singles cope with the problems of single living, and to improve their personal growth. Besson, founder and director of Christian Growth Ministries of Houston, Texas, is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He is a professional adviser to Parents Without Partners. Though some readers may not agree with all he says, he writes with honesty and compassion. —AWM

Freedom is a precious thing today. Those who have it cherish it; Those who fear it want to destroy it; And those who don't have it will still fight for it. —Harvey C. Jacobs.

Subscription price increase necessary

The inevitability of a substantial subscription price increase has finally crashed in upon the **Baptist Record**, and it must become a fact. On Sept. 1 we must increase our every family plan subscription price to \$5.52 per family per year. The club plan and the annual individual subscription rate will be increased accordingly.

Others of the Southern Baptist state papers went to that price more than six months ago when the postage rate tripled. At that time we were faced with three choices. We could raise our subscription prices and continue doing business as usual. We could begin a battle to have the postage rate rolled back to the pre-January level. We could do both. We chose only to fight. We felt we would be doing a disservice to our subscribers if we were to raise prices and then the postage rates were rolled back.

So we have fought. And we have fought. And we have fought. It has been a continual battle for six months. The battle may not be over, but we have come to the point that we cannot wait any longer in the hope of winning.

To repeat the story told over and over to congressmen and senators, the **Baptist Record** and other second-class, nonprofit publications were set up on a schedule in 1971 that was to phase out an attributable cost subsidy by 1987. This was a 16-step process, and we went to step 10 in July of 1981.

In January we went abruptly to step 16 because President Reagan could not agree with Congress on a budget for 1982. With the expiration on Dec. 31 of the first continuing resolution, by which the government was run for a quarter, we went to step 16. We have

stayed there through the second, third and fourth continuing resolutions because the President threatened to veto measures that contained enough postal subsidy to move back to step 10, or 11, or 12, or 13.

Emergency supplemental bills were introduced in Congress and passed by both houses in June that would have put us back at step 13. The President vetoed two of those bills in two days.

He has passed along the word to Congress that he will not favor any bill containing postal subsidies.

Because the writer was president of the Southern Baptist Press Association for the 1981-82 year, the **Baptist Record** became the focal point of the effort among the Southern Baptist state papers to get the postage rates rolled back. It was not that we favored being the recipients of a governmental subsidy. We hoped, however, to allow our subscribers become accustomed to the loss of the subsidy on a gradual basis. If the subsidy is available, we have no choice but to accept it. It has been available for more than 100 years. The publications are not responsible for inflation or an unbalanced budget.

And so we fought. The two Mississippi senators, Thad Cochran and John Stennis, have helped us immensely. Mississippi Congressman Jamie Whitten, who is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has been sympathetic and very helpful all along. But we haven't been able to get past the President.

Credit must be given to a gallant bunch of state paper editors who have done everything that was asked of them as we were guided by experts

from Washington. Credit must also be given to Evelyn Keyes of the **Baptist Record** staff, who has carried a great deal of the load as the battle has flowed through the **Baptist Record** office. Southern Baptists owe her a debt of gratitude, for her work has reached far beyond the boundaries of this state.

Appreciation must be expressed to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Executive Committee of the board as they have said to us that they would support us in the continuation of the fight.

We have not run out of the will to fight. We have run out of time.

The increasing of subscription prices is a move we did not want to take. When we started the fight, we promised our subscribers that we would not raise prices without being able to say that we have done all we could to avoid it. We are able to say that. The hours and hours of telephone calls to Washington and all over the nation attest to it. The hundreds of letters written to congressmen and senators and to other editors attest to it.

But we have reached the point of having to accept what we desperately sought to avoid. We hope our subscribers will continue their subscriptions. As never before in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, an informed constituency is necessary. The Baptist state papers are the only vehicles for providing that information.

The decision was not reached without consultation with the **Baptist Record** Advisory Committee, which is a group of six persons elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention to aid

the staff of the newspaper in decisions such as this and in decisions on content. Consultation with the advisory committee was initiated even before the semi-annual meeting in April and continued at that meeting. Though they faced the decision reluctantly, the members of the committee were 100 per cent in agreement earlier this month that we could wait no longer.

It is not as if \$5.52 is a high price to pay for a year's subscription to a weekly newspaper. In fact, it is cheap. It seems high, however, when compared to what it was just a few years ago. But for only 46 cents per month a weekly newspaper keeping Baptists up-to-date on Baptist news will be delivered to their mailbox. That is only 11 cents per week for 50 weeks.

The **Baptist Record** staff is well-trained and dedicated. It has continually sought to provide the best newspaper possible for Mississippi Baptists. That will continue to be the goal. We hope all of our subscribers will continue to be a part of this ministry with us. The new every family plan rate of \$5.52 has been designed to hold through 1983. The same is true of the new club plan rate of \$6.72 and the new annual individual rate of \$7.35.

The simple purpose of the **Baptist Record** is to seek to help the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to be better able to carry out their mission of witnessing to the world. We try to do this by seeking to help the individual church members be better able to function in their role as church members. We will continue to pursue this purpose with whatever ability we have at our disposal. —DTM

Guest opinion . . .

One team or lose

By Ron Kirkland

The Southern Baptist Convention held in New Orleans could have been one of the most magnificent meetings in our history. We adopted a 106 million dollar budget without batting an eye. We heard reports that told of record breaking statistics. We have accumulated the largest missionary force of any evangelical group in the world, and we have more young people training in our seminaries than at any time in our history.

When in the history of all denominational meetings have 2,000 responded to an invitation after an evangelical message as happened Sunday night when Billy Graham preached in the Superdome? What other group of people could gather more than 1,000 people at once to go into the streets of New Orleans to share the Good News?

It happened in New Orleans this year.

With all of this good, why did so many of us come home from New Orleans with a sense of despair? The answer, I believe, lies in the motivation of a question asked one messenger as the convention concluded. "Well," someone asked, "who do you think won this year?" Fortunately the question was not directed toward me because I could not possibly have answered the question.

Of course, Jimmy Draper had won the presidential election over three other outstanding men; but I really don't think that was the point of the question. Some of the appointments of the previous administration again were reversed by the convention, so victory could be claimed by that "side." There is really no way to know who won; and in reality, the answer to the question is not as important as the fact that such a question was asked by so many — who won the convention.

It is as if we had been attending some gladiatorial event in ancient Rome where the Christians were pitted against the lions. Had we been to a football game in the great arena where someone has to win or lose? Did our debates and questions over issues amount to no more than rhetorical fencing to determine the champion?

Have we, in fact, chosen sides and come out fighting? If so, there will be no winner. There will only be losers.

Great men of God have often had deep differences of opinion and our convention allows the free expression of these views. Our convention is broad enough to include large churches, small churches, city churches, country churches, formal high churches, and down home informal churches.

We have Southern Baptist preachers with no education and with the highest degrees of formal instruction. This is our genius; we are a cross section of whatever culture we enter, and there is room for all in the body of Christ. We never will share the same opinion, but we do share the common goal of spreading the Good News to the uttermost part of the earth. Our methods vary, but our message really is the same.

Are great men of God like Bailey Smith, Adrian Rogers, and Jimmy Draper really on opposite sides of other great men of God like Duke McCall, Kenneth Chafin, and Grady Cothen? I do not believe that these men are really against each other, but it seems that they have become the generals of two opposing armies.

The fact is, if we are going to reach all people with the Good News, we are

going to need all of God's army on the same side. God calls all of us to do our part according to what he has given each of us. A Duke McCall or a Grady Cothen can communicate with people that would turn a deaf ear to a Bailey Smith or a Jimmy Draper. Likewise, the conservative, fundamental pastors reach hundreds of people who would never hear a word the moderates would say.

I am thankful that God put both kinds into the same army. He wants us to reach the whole world, not just the conservatives or moderates. He gave us different weapons to fight different battles. When we begin to turn the weapons upon each other, no one will win. We will all lose. Jesus said that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

God has given us the equipment to succeed. If we fail the great mission because of some petty church squabble, the real losers will be the yet unborn generation of humanity who may never have the chance to find out that God loves them and died to forgive their sins. As Dwight Eisenhower told the allied forces in World War II, "It's one team or we lose."

Ron Kirkland is pastor of Bay Springs Baptist Church in Bay Springs.

Letters To The Editor

Homecoming at Columbus

Editor: On August 15 this church will celebrate its 150th Anniversary with a "Homecoming Day."

Because of nearby Mississippi University for Women and Columbus Air Force Base, thousands who have worshiped here now serve Christ in every state and many foreign countries.

We will appreciate your assistance in inviting former members to be pre-

sent with us that day. Hospitality in homes is available for those contacting us.

Secondly, we are asking those who have been touched by this church's ministry over the years (but who are not able to attend Homecoming) to write letters to us, which will be bound and presented to the church. Please use 8½" x 11" paper.

Joe N. McKeever, pastor
First Baptist Church
P. O. Box 829 Columbus, MS 39701

Information on pastors

Editor: Second Avenue Baptist Church of Laurel will soon be celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and the Diamond Jubilee Committee is searching for pictures and information of former pastors for a history book. If anyone has pictures or addresses or knows of relatives or information concerning the following pastors, please contact Second Avenue Baptist Church, 1301 Second Avenue or Miss Betty Ruth

Marion, Chairman, 1054 First Avenue, Laurel, Mississippi.

R. E. Waldrup, 1980-1910; J. L. Low, 1911-1916; Jack E. Cranford, 1912-22; N. R. Stone, 1916; J. L. Phelps, 1916-1917;

J. C. Parker, 1923-1925; S. S. Perry, 1926; B. B. Hilburn, 1944-46; Edward J. Harvey, 1968-1969.

Also, old memorabilia is being sought that belonged to the older members of the church, which will be returned to owner.

Betty Ruth Martin, Chairman

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Thursday, July 15, 1982

Names In The News...



Kitchens

First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, honored its organist and pianist, **Mrs. L. W. Kitchens** and **Mrs. R. B. Taylor**, on May 30. The two retired from those positions after having served 30 years together. During that time, it was estimated that they played over 3,000 offertories and for more than 1,500 adult choir anthems in serving with eleven different full-time ministers of music.

Each was given a check from the church by Joel Haire, pastor. James Beasley, minister of music, presented each with a music box containing a gold watch on a chain. Ray Grillo, president of the church choir, presented the church with two antique brass lamps for the organ and piano in honor of Mrs. Kitchens' and Mrs. Taylor's service. The women played several favorite offertories in the worship services, and the day was concluded with a reception in the fellowship hall given in their honor.



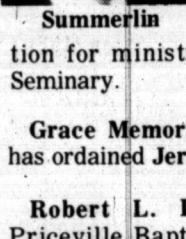
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, WEST POINT, recently presented certificates of recognition to **HENRY ELLIS**, left, for 30 years of teaching a Sunday School class and to **MRS. TOM WELLS**, right, for 25 years as nursery teacher and 29 years of preparing the Lord's Supper. **TOM MCCURLEY**, center, pastor, made the presentations during a luncheon for senior adults.



Calvary Baptist Church, Lamar Association, honored its pastor, **Douglas E. Benedict, Sr.** and wife Gail, on their 25th wedding anniversary with a reception in the church fellowship hall. A silver coffee pot was presented to them by the church.

Mrs. Merle Powell was named as "Mother of the Year" at Green's Creek Baptist Church, Petal, Jimmy Martin, pastor.

LaVerne Summerlin was ordained to the gospel ministry by Midway Baptist Church, Meridian, on May 30. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Huey Summerlin of Meridian, he is a graduate of Clarke College and Blue Mountain College. He is pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Morton, and expects to continue his preparation for ministry at New Orleans Seminary.



Grace Memorial Church, Tupelo, has ordained **Jerry Guess** as deacon.

Robert L. Daniel, pastor of Priceville Baptist Church, Tupelo since 1975, received the doctor of ministry degree on June 24 from Clarksburg School of Theology, Clarksburg, Tenn. He holds Th.B. and Th.M. degrees from the same institution.

Daniel

Just for the Record

Bethsaida dedicates renovation



BETHSAIDA BAPTIST CHURCH, Montgomery County, Dewitt Cutts, pastor, recently dedicated a completely renovated church facility, according to Forest McClurg, clerk and chairman of the committee responsible for the project. The work cost over \$26,000.



EIGHTEEN GAs of First Church, Corinth, participated in a recognition service May 26. Each received at least one Missions Adventure badge. Naomi Watson (2nd row, far left) received a charm for completion of all six badges.



THE 21-VOICE YOUTH CHOIR from First Baptist Church, Sumrall (Lamar) has completed a tour of Florida and south Alabama, to present the musical "And There Was Light." After the choir's home concert June 13, two persons made professions of faith in Christ. Dennis Smith is pastor; Bill Herman is minister of music and youth.

Hebron Church, Panola County, enrolled 36 children in its June 21-25 Vacation Bible School, ages 3-11. Mrs. Mackie Delton was VBS director.

VBS pupils and their teachers from **New Hope Baptist Church** near Meadville visited the Baptist Children's Village June 24. They donated their VBS offering of \$110.00 to the Village. Ruth Glaze, staff member at the Village, accepted the check from Bo McMillan and led a tour of the campus. Billy Dowdy is the New Hope pastor.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Walnut Grove, celebrated its fourth birthday on June 20 with a record attendance in Sunday School. The church has been free from debt for two years. Percy Cooper occupied the pulpit again June 20 after many weeks of sickness following a heart attack.

Northwest Baptist Association dedicated a new open-air pavilion July 11.



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Bethel Church (Copiah): July 18-23: Sun. services 11 a.m., dinner on ground, afternoon service at 1; no Sun. night service; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; John Brock pastor, Van Winkle, Jackson, evangelist; Randy White, Bethel Church, music evangelist; Duwayne Tullios, pastor.

Puckett Church (Rankin): July 18-23: Houston Adkins, pastor FBC, Mendenhall, evangelist; Jim Lott, minister of music, FBC, Pearl, music evangelist; Sunday services regular time; weekdays 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jim Carr, pastor.

Mt. Vernon (Mississippi Association): July 18-21: Ken Trappell, pastor; Sunday - 11 a.m. service, homecoming dinner at noon, and 1:30 singspiration; Mon.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Tom Vassar, former Mt. Vernon pastor, now missionary to Venezuela, evangelist; Mrs. Susan Tanner, Osyka, musician.

Bethlehem Church (Simpson): July 19-25: Emerson Tedder, Pearson Church, Pearl, evangelist; Randy Hymel, Harrisville Church, music evangelist; services 7:30 p.m.; Sunday services at regular time; homecoming Sunday 25th with dinner on the grounds; Victor Johnson, pastor.

Providence near Jayess: homecoming July 18; revival July 19-23; John Hedgepeth, pastor, Antioch (Lawrence), evangelist; Clifton Williams, minister of music, Carmel (Lawrence), leading singing; Sunday at 11 a.m. with dinner served at noon and afternoon service with singing by The Lighthouse Trio, Magnolia; Mon.-Fri., night only; John L. Carlisle, pastor.

Shiloh (Montgomery): July 18-21: Frank Roberson, pastor, preaching Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.; Gerald Shook, pastor at Paynes, preaching Monday night; Donald O'Quin, pastor at First, Charleston, preaching Tuesday night; Matthew Greer, pastor at Corinth, preaching Wed. night; services at 7:45 p.m.

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Revival Dates

Eighth Avenue, Meridian: July 18-25; John Barnes, Jr., pastor emeritus, Main Street, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Joe Styron, music director, Richland, song leader; Sunday: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Paul E. Earley, pastor.

Bentonla (Yazoo): July 18-23; Russell M. McIntire, pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, La., and former pastor of First, Clinton, Miss., evangelist; Jim Everett, pastor at Bentonla, music evangelist; services at 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty (Amite): July 11-16; James Richardson, pastor at Madison, evangelist; R. L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City, music evangelists; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Charles Holifield, pastor.

Springfield (Scott): July 18-23; J. C. Renfro, director of missions, Rankin County Association, evangelist; Dusty Rhodes, music director; during the week at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday morning at 11, plus dinner on the grounds and an afternoon service, but no evening service.

Edna Church, Columbia: July 18-23; James Buie, pastor, First Church, Byram, evangelist; Jasper Collins, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m. (Buie, former missionary to Spain and an artist, will do a chalk illustration each evening.)

Bluff Springs (Kemper): July 15-18; James L. Edwards, pastor, Corinth, (Kemper), evangelist; Clarence W. Qualls, Jr., pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and nightly at 7:30.

Glading (Amite): July 15-18; at 7 p.m.; Troy Bankston, pastor of Mesa Baptist Church, Tylertown, evangelist; Charles Kirkfield, pastor; church's first homecoming, July 18, with 10 a.m. service, dinner on the grounds, and special singing.

Mountain Creek Church, Florence: July 18-23; Sunday services, 10:30 a.m., dinner at church, afternoon service, no night service; 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., during the week; Bobby Warren, Pine Ridge Church, Forest, evangelist; Roger Johnson, pastor.

38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg: July 18-23; Bobby Shurden, native of Drew, music evangelist; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m. and Tues.-Fri. at 10 a.m.; G. Wiley Abel, pastor.

Holly Bluff (Yazoo): July 11-16; David Grant, pastor, Broadmoor, Jackson, evangelist; Chester Whisenant, music evangelist; Gary Johnson, pastor.

Robert Burrus, retired Board employee, dies

Robert Burrus died at his Jackson home, 1618 Topp St., on June 25 at age 82. He retired Aug. 15, 1964, after being employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 19 years. He began work as janitor in the Baptist Building, then at Mississippi and Congress streets, on Sept. 1, 1945.

Funeral services were held July 2 at Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Jackson, where he was a member. Burrus is survived by his wife of 63 years, Carrie Billip Burrus, who was formerly employed by First Baptist Church, Jackson. His niece, Beulah Bester, is currently employed at the Baptist Building.

He was born Aug. 4, 1899, in Wilkinson County, Miss., and lived near Silver City in the delta before moving to Jackson in 1924.

Satartia: July 18-23; homecoming July 18; Bible study each morning at 9; night services at 7; Delton Bealle, Lyman Church, Gulfport, evangelist; Jim Bazemore, pastor, to lead singing.

Mt. Olivet Church in Lillian community: July 18-21; homecoming July 18 with lunch served picnic-style after 11 a.m. service; Courtney Selvey, pastor, Clifton, evangelist; Homer McDonald, pastor; Sun.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Nebo near Collinsville: July 18-23; Jack O'Neil Giles, pastor, Macedonia Church, Suqualena, evangelist; Darrell Trickett, music director, also from Macedonia; at 7:30 p.m.; Charles Davis, pastor.

Fellowship, Bellefontaine (Webster): July 18-23; at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. on Sunday; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. weekdays; evangelist, Bob Watkins, pastor, Longview Church, Belden (Pontotoc Association); visiting music director, Chester Beasley, minister of music, Gray's Creek Church, Hernando; pastor, Winston Ross.

Springfield (Adams): July 18-23; Howard Aultman, evangelist; Butch Hosea, music director; homecoming July 25, with A. Abercrombie and Ralph Marshall speaking; and dinner on the ground.

Bethel (Lincoln): July 11-16; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; during week at 7:30 p.m.; Bud Swindall, evangelist; Thomas Moak, directing music; Tommy Purvis, pastor.

Evansville Baptist Church, Coldwater: July 18-23; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Ervin Brown, director of missions, Northwest Baptist Assn., evangelist; Joe McNeer, Sledge, music director; Mrs. Lana McIver, pianist; Mrs. Betty Campbell, organist; Ed Campbell, pastor.

Rock Hill Church near Brandon: July 11-16; Robert Jones, former pastor, now chaplain at Baptist Medical Center, evangelist; George Styron, music director, leading singing; James F. Smith, pastor; lunch at the church on Sunday; night services at 7:30.

Glade Church (Jones): July 18-23; David Satterwhite, pastor; John Kramer, revival music director; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; different evangelists each day—Sunday, D. D. Satterwhite, retired, Bay Springs; Monday, Eddie Bryant, Tuckers Crossing, and Richard Lee, Highland; Tuesday, Wade Rogers, Hebron, and Alan Woodward, First, Ellisville; Wed., Thomas Broadhead, First, Sharon, and Jerry Oswald, Second Avenue; Thursday, Billy Murphy, Wildwood, Laurel, and Jimmy Hood, Houston Road; Friday, Russell Cottingham, Pecan Grove, and David Sellers, Magnolia Street.

Spring Cottage Church (Marion County): July 18-23; Sunday at 11 a.m. plus dinner in fellowship hall and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m.; Foy Killingsworth, New Hope Church, Simpson County, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, leading music; Marvin Graham, pastor.

Sharon Church, Long Beach: July 11-16; Jerry Estes, evangelist; homecoming was held July 11.

McBee Baptist Church, Columbus: July 18-23; Hubert Shepherd, evangelist; nightly at 7:15; special music at each service; Al Landers, pastor.

Bolton Church (Hinds): July 18-23; J. W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison, evangelist; Mickey Henderson, Hillcrest Church, music evangelist; services Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. week nights 7:30; Wayne Burkes, pastor.

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Northwest team tackles 6 Bambi Lake projects

By Evelyn Foote

Northwest Baptist Association, under leadership of Ervin Brown, missions director, sent a 39 member team from 17 churches to Northland Association in Michigan for a week of varied mission work. The team of seven preachers, 16 laymen, 14 women, and two children traveled 20 hours by chartered bus to the Michigan Baptist retreat center, Bambi Lake, 175 miles north of Detroit.

Northland Association covers 21 of Michigan's 83 counties and has a population of 400,000. It consists of eleven churches, six chapels (missions), and nine Bible study fellowships. When the group first arrived, they conducted weekend revivals in five of the churches, with the following rotating: Ervin Brown, Shelly Adams, Jim Rosenkranz, and Randy Leslie, Hernando; Ed Campbell and Thomas Foy, Coldwater; Dean Shields, Olive Branch; and Rowland Crawford of Walls. These revivals occurred over the Memorial Day weekend.

On Monday morning, the men began working on six projects at Bambi Lake. They built a boiler room for a wood-burning furnace for the lodge; installed a cooler in the kitchen store-room; repaired the roof over the front canopy; sanded and painted the walls of a new chalet; rewired the campground, and cut wood. Mechanics also repaired the buses and

vans to be used by the association's summer student missionaries who are to work under Missionary T. B. Smith's supervision.

While the men were busy outside, the women worked each morning in the lodge, helping the staff with kitchen and housekeeping duties. Then, in the afternoons, they surveyed in Houghton Lake and Prudenville, resort communities on the shore of Michigan's largest inland lake. They found 62 families who are prospects for the beginning of a Bible study fellowship. Smith plans to follow up on their work immediately.

Realizing that the Smiths are to provide room and board for eight summer missionaries, the Mississippians responded to the need by donating all their towels and sheets before boarding their homeward-bound bus.

Of the four trips that the association has sponsored in pioneer areas, those who have made all four declared this to be the best. Previously, they traveled to Montana, Wyoming, and New Jersey. Brown said that all the churches represented in the group would be informed and inspired concerning pioneer missions as never before.

(Evelyn Foote of Memphis is a communications specialist for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.)



Men from northwest Mississippi build a boiler room for the lodge at the Michigan Baptist retreat center, Bambi Lake.



Northwest Baptist Association sent a 39-member team to Michigan.

Devotional Playing in the summer sun

By J. Gerald Harris, pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson
Matthew 11:16-17

What shall I say about this nation? These people are like children playing, who say to their little friends, "We played wedding and you weren't happy, so we played funeral but you weren't sad" (Living Bible Paraphrase).

My "growing-up" days were spent in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. During the summer months of my boyhood days I "played" as long as daylight and parents permitted. My favorite playmate was my first cousin, Francis. Some summer days afforded marathon "fun and game" periods, interrupted on occasion by "chores to do" or "errands to run."



First, we'd begin by playing "war." We would shoot the enemy and launch our mortar attacks and call for the artillery and throw grenades until, finally, one of us would say, "Hey, I'm tired of playing 'war'; let's play something else."

Next, it was "cops and robbers." So we'd make a "heist" or rob a bank or snatch some jewelry and then run and run and run from the police until finally, one of us would say, "Hey, I'm tired of playing this game; let's play something else."

Then, it was a game of "catch" or "sink the ship" or "kick the can," but there was always the comment, "Hey, I'm tired of playing this game; let's play something else."

As I reflect upon the days of my youth, I am made acutely aware of the time I have spent "just playing at" the Christian life.

Let's stop playing and start praying; stop trying and start trusting; stop exerting self and start exalting the Saviour. There is so much to do all around us. Playing will not get the job done. We cannot even begin to accomplish the work before us in our own strength. We must trust God and depend upon him to empower us to strike out for Jesus and against Satan.

Churches all around us are declining in membership, in effectiveness, in power, because the pastor and people are playing at religion. Peter Marshall, the great Presbyterian preacher, said, "We are like men dressed in expensive scuba-diving equipment, marching around pulling the plugs out of bathtubs."

Let us roll up our sleeves for the task before us and work for the Master knowing that "the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4b).

BMC students take puppets to Ontario

By Melva Graham, student, Blue Mountain College

In Burlington, Ontario, a remarkable couple, Jim and Mary Bullis, struggle to begin a Southern Baptist chapel. This was the site of intensive mission efforts by nine students from Blue Mountain College and their Baptist Student Union director, Susan Puckett.

Leaving on a Friday morning, we were headed on a 20-hour trip to Ontario and to a week filled with new experiences. For some in the group, it was the first time they had come into contact with pioneer missions. But, for all it was a time of growth and revelation of the great need in eastern Canada.

After two days of traveling with ten people in a college van, and after some difficulty in crossing the Canadian border, we arrived ready to rest. This was not at all what "Preacher Bullis" had planned for us. At about 7:30, that evening, we began distributing brochures telling about the services at the chapel the next day featuring our puppet group (which had been organized rather quickly about three weeks before our trip). The weather had been pleasant when we left Mississippi, but in Ontario, it was below freezing, with snow covering most of the ground.

The next morning at the chapel, (made up mostly of children from all ethnic groups, brought in on a rented van) we were assigned Sunday School classes. We were also in charge of the service which included music, puppets, and a brief message on the reason nine college students from Mississippi would spend their spring break working in Canada.

During the next four days, we did ten puppet shows, visitation, and survey. Two of our shows were done at a downtown mission, which works mainly with men and women off the street. One show was at an Indian center, and the remainder were in the game rooms of high-rise condominiums.

Our last day was spent sight-seeing in Toronto, home of over two million people with no Southern Baptist church.

Another chapel has been started about 20 miles from Burlington and Jim and Mary are making plans to begin another chapel in a nearby city. Five chapels must be started before a Southern Baptist association can be formed in Ontario, and no help from either Southern Baptist Foreign or Home Mission Boards can be given until an association is formed.

Scrapbook

We are aliens

We are aliens.
Strangers on this earth,
pilgrims seeking a Holy God.
Our quest requires a lifetime
however prolonged
or brief.
Our sojourn in this world
must be one of quality.
God doesn't care if our deeds are heroic,
as long as they are imitative of His.
Others will follow
our footsteps
so we must be sure
of where they lead.
—Vivian B. Norris
Marks

Like a pink rose

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Prayer is like a pink rose
turning its fragile face upward
for sustenance, inspiration,
photosynthesis,
life.

In like manner a human soul
looks up to God
and is nourished.

—Violet Tackett
McComb

Consummation

A song is not a song, my dear,
Until it has been sung.
No notes of bell, however clear,
Until it has been rung.

The gospel cannot be 'Good News'
Until it has been spread,
A life not lived until it's used,
Kind words until they're said.

The light would not be there at all
Less something to reflect
So objects dormant, great or small
Are only circumspect
Until there's contact—counterpart
That brings it into use.

A channel is a reservoir
Until it is let loose,
If we reflect or if we give
What difference would you say?
Accept, absorb, pass on, and live
There'll be no idle day.
—Valerie Boyd Howell
Ripley

As sure as ever God puts his children
in the furnace, he will be in the furnace
with them.—Charles H. Spurgeon

Southern Seminary trustees approve new faculty members

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Four faculty members were added and the status of 11 others was changed during the annual spring meeting of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees.

Named to the faculty were assistant professors Gerald Keown and R. Philip Roberts, professor Luther Joe Thompson and senior professor Penrose St. Amant.

Keown, professor of the chair of Bible, Baptist Student Center at the University of Missouri, will be assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation. Roberts, a doctoral candidate at Oxford University in England, will be assistant professor of evangelism.

Thompson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., will be professor of Christian preaching. St. Amant, former dean of Southern's school of theology and retired president of the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, will be senior

professor of church history.

Frank Stagg, senior professor of New Testament interpretation and long-time faculty member, was designated emeritus professor of New Testament interpretation, effective upon his retirement from teaching June 12, 1982.

Kenya MK dies

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—Sheri Lynn Richardson, 9-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Marcia Jones Richardson, died June 15 after a freak school bus accident in Nairobi.

Returning home on the last day of school, Sheri had stepped off the bus when her dress got caught in the closing bus door. As the bus drove away, she was dragged 20 yards before her dress tore and she was released. She died two hours later without regaining consciousness.

Bible Books

Praise to the Lord of Zion

By Gene Henderson, pastor,
Fairview, Columbus
Psalm 24:1-4, 46:1-2, 84:1-12

Mt. Zion represented the presence of God for the psalmist. God had chosen Mt. Zion as his abode (68:16). Mt. Zion, the city of Jerusalem, and the temple were used to refer to God's habitation and presence. Praise to the Lord of Zion is common to Psalms 24, 46, 84.

I. Preparation for worship (Psalm 24:1-4)

Two questions are answered in Psalm 24:1-4 that relate to worship: Who is worshipped? and how is he to be approached? The Owner and Creator of all the world can only be approached by one who has made adequate preparation. "Unto Yahweh" is the way the Psalm begins: "Once God is brought to mind, the psalmist declares him to be the creator and sustainer, not only of everything in the world (all it contains), but also of everyone (those who dwell in it) as well. God's creative power and sovereignty are seen by the establishment of the earth upon the water (cf. Gen. 1:9; Ps. 136:6).

Only one adequately prepared can come before (ascend the hill) and remain before (stand in) the Owner and Creator of all the earth. "Clean hands" and a "pure heart" indicate that he is to be innocent in action and attitude. He must be true and faithful to God, not one who trusts (lifts up) in the false, vain things. In addition, his relation with his neighbor must be right; he must not lie or deceive (sworn deceitfully) others for his own advantage.

II. Propriety of worship (Psalm 46:1-2)

Trust and absolute confidence in God are expressed in this Psalm. God was worthy of praise because he had proven himself the refuge and strength of his people. "Refuge" suggests outward shelter while "strength" implies the power of God within. The Hebrew in 46:1b literally reads "a help in distress hath he let himself be found exceedingly." God is always available and more than adequate for any situation. The psalmist pictures the worst and most impossible situation (v. 2), and declares that his faith negates any fear. Note the use of plural pronouns which suggest that this was a corporate confession of faith.

III. Place of worship (84:1-12)

Place has always been important in worship and is so today. There is a unique hallowedness about the church building today even as Jerusalem and the temple were for the psalmist.

However, caution must be exercised lest the place become the focus of worship instead of God. Although the psalmist delights in the house of God, he never loses sight of the presence of God as the focus of worship.

Three beatitudes punctuate Psalm 84 and form a helpful outline. "Blessed" appears first in verse 4. The Psalmist contemplates the fullness and satisfaction that surely is enjoyed by those who minister in the temple. To think about the temple (v. 1) permeates his inner being with the strongest desire to be there (v. 2). He is confident of being received into the presence of God since even the smallest birds find there a place (v. 3). Most churches today would not know what to do if every member had the desire to attend and worship as the psalmist.

The second section of the Psalm (84:5-8) begins with "blessed." The man whose resources are divine is surely blessed. Perhaps the author was a pilgrim to the annual feasts. If so he knew from experience the strengthening power of God's presence en route to Zion. Even if the author could not make the journey, he knew the strength of God's presence. The journey of life, like the pilgrimage to Zion, has "valleys of Baca." God's presence and strength turn these desert places into places of refreshing and renewed strength to go on.

The final "blessed" appears in v. 12 and summarizes the third section. The theme of 84:12 is trust in God. Following a brief prayer and invoking God's blessing on the king (vv. 8-9) the psalmist declares once again his love for the house of God. A day in the presence of God is preferred over a thousand away from God's presence. It is better to be a servant at the entrance of the temple than to have the status and false security of the world because God provides everything necessary for life (sun) and security (shield), and doesn't limit his provision. Therefore, the one trusting in God surely has the fullness of joy.

Worship begins with the contemplation of God. Worship also should lead to a deeper faith in God and to a greater love for God and the places or persons associated with God.

Fort Worth, Texas (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will be the subject of a documentary film this fall on CBS television. Film crews were on campus April 13-16 to film for the series, "For Our Times," aired by CBS on 40 stations.

Uniform lesson

Cornelius: a Gentile convert

By Charles S. Davis, associate
professor of Bible, MC
Acts 10: 1-2, 30-35, 44-48

The story of Cornelius is one of the hinges upon which swings the door of the history of the Christian church. In his account of the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Luke recorded how God providentially led his church to realize the full implication of the universal nature of Christianity.

By its very character, Christianity had to break out of the narrow confines of the "old wineskins" of Judaism. The book of Acts sets in bold contrast the picture of a risen Savior with open arms saying "whoever will, may come" and the timid, hesitant, almost reluctant realization by Peter (and the rest of us) that God shows no partiality in receiving persons. We can learn many lessons which we need to know—especially that God values all persons and that Christianity breaks down the barriers which separate persons from each other—if we will let God speak to us through Cornelius.

I. Cornelius: his character (10:1-2)
Let us list some of the facts (and their implications) which we can gather from the Scripture concerning Cornelius:

(1) He was a courageous, loyal, and respected Roman soldier known as a centurion. He was in charge of 100 men—roughly equivalent to a company commander in today's army.

(2) He was a seeker after the true God, a devout "god-fearer." The term "god-fearer" was almost a technical term for Gentiles who, fed up with the polytheism and immorality of Greek and Roman religion, had turned toward the Jewish religion. Cornelius was attracted to Judaism, but had not yet become a proselyte (convert).

(3) He was a characteristically generous man, kind and charitable to the Jews of his area. He loved God and he loved his neighbors.

(4) He was a man of prayer with a desire to know God in a more personal way. And as he sought after God, God found him.

II. Cornelius: his concern (10:30-35)

While God was preparing Peter to be the instrument to bring Cornelius to Christ (10:9-29), he was also hearing and answering Cornelius' prayers. Cornelius was anxious to hear what God would have to say through Peter. He set aside all other concerns and waited four days for Peter's arrival from Joppa. He was concerned also that his family and friends hear the good news, so he gathered them about him. With eager expectation the whole

company of Gentiles awaited God's word through Peter's preaching.

Peter admitted that he was only gradually "catching on" to the lesson which God wanted him to learn. It took three repetitions of a vision (10:9-16) and the pleading of three messengers from Cornelius (10:17-23), but Peter finally followed the Holy Spirit's leadership and witnessed to the Gentiles, even though it went against his own inclination.

III. Cornelius: his conversion (10:44-48)

Cornelius was ready for the gospel to be preached. God had prepared his heart to receive the message to be delivered by Peter even before Peter arrived in Caesarea. And when Peter stood forcefully to preach of the ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus, a revival broke out among all the people gathered in Cornelius' house.

As Peter announced God's offer of forgiveness for their sin and called for a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ, Cornelius and his household responded in faith. A marvelous outpouring of the Holy Spirit came upon these Gentiles, in much the same way as the Pentecost outpouring for the Jews (Acts 2). In recognition of their conversion (not as the means for effecting it), and after the Holy Spirit had come upon them, they were all baptized.

Homecomings

West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson: July 18; homecoming; Max Jones, a former pastor, to bring message at 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch to be served in Activities Building; Mrs. Lucille Edmonds, former member, to be back as special guest; Malcolm Massey, pastor.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Hattiesburg celebrated homecoming July 11. Ralph and Joyce Davis, missionaries to Ghana who surrendered to missions while members of Macedonia Church, were speakers. The Believers presented special music. Gerald L. Autman is pastor; Robert Bolling is minister of music.

Springfield (Adams): July 25; dinner on the grounds; A. Abercrombie and Ralph Marshall, speakers.

Wheeler Grove (Alcorn): homecoming August 1; Kara Blackard, pastor, to lead morning service; potluck dinner; afternoon singing featuring the Heismen Quartet.

Life and Work

Jesus — our Savior

By David McCubbin, associate
pastor, First, Meridian
Hebrews 5:1, 7-10; 7:23-27; 9:27-28

It is generally deduced from the content of Hebrews that the author sought to persuade his readers to hold fast to their Christian profession rather than revert to Judaism from which they had come. The impetus for this possible desertion was probably persecution of Christians by Rome.

One of the means the writer uses to urge perseverance is to warn his readers of the dire consequences of such desertion. Another means, the major thrust of the book, is the argument that the new covenant (Christianity) is far superior to the old (Judaism).

One aspect of the old covenant that his readers considered significant was the priesthood. This lesson centers on the author's argument that the priesthood of Christ is better than that of the old covenant.

Jesus qualifies as a high priest (Hebrews 4:14-5:10). A high priest was chosen from among men to represent them before God. The fact that he was human endowed him with sympathy for the weaknesses and sinful nature of persons. The author has stressed the humanity of Jesus (Jesus — our Brother). We are to understand that Jesus met this qualification. He was chosen from among men. He understands our problems. He was tempted in all points like ourselves and yet was without sin (4:15).

Another qualification, the individual who served as priest was chosen by God. The priesthood had been established by God's revealed will. He had set aside Aaron and ordained that Aaron's descendants would fill this role. The author quotes Psalm 2:7 to show that Jesus met the qualification of divine choice. God appointed the son to the office of high priest.

"Now wait a minute," his readers might respond, "Jesus is not of the tribe of Levi. He is not a descendant of Aaron. How can he possibly qualify?" Remember "Melchisedec . . . priest of the most high God" (7:1)? Melchisedec was without blood-line credentials; yet he was greater than the Levitical line in that he blessed and received tithes from Abraham (7:1-10). Jesus was appointed by God after the order of Melchisedec (5:6,10) He qualifies.

The high priest offers to God on behalf of persons gifts and sacrifices for sins (5:1). Jesus qualifies as high priest in that he carried out the duties of a high priest. He "offered up

prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears . . ." (5:7 RSV) and implied also in these verses (5:7-10) that he offered sacrifice for sin by his suffering and death. Further, his sacrifice was acceptable, for God heard his prayers and delivered him from death (in the resurrection). He qualifies.

So Jesus qualifies as high priest by (1) being chosen from among men, (2) by God, and (3) performing the duties of a high priest.

Jesus is superior. Having set forth the fact that Jesus is qualified, our lesson then emphasizes his superiority to the old covenant priesthood.

Jesus is superior in that he is one, not many. His priesthood is eternal. Under the old covenant there had to be many priests — one after another — because each was subject to death. Not so with Jesus. He holds his office eternally (7:23-24). Death did not hold him. He lives! He ever liveth to make intercession (7:25).

Jesus is superior because of the nature of the sacrifice he offered. The high priest of the old covenant brought the blood of animals to the holy place as a covering for the sins of himself and the people. Jesus was sinless and needed not to offer anything for his own cleansing. He gave himself in death. He shed his own blood for the remission of sins. The sacrificial death of Jesus is far superior to that of animals. The animal sacrifice was only adequate in what it foreshadowed. Jesus' death was totally adequate in itself for the sins of men.

Further, the old covenant priests performed their duties of sacrifice on a regular basis. Over and over, daily for many offerings, once a year — year after year — when it came to the high priest going into the Holy of Holies for the people and their sins. Jesus offered himself once and that was totally adequate for time and eternity (7:27).

The lesson title is "Jesus — our Savior." The high priest was "appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God" (5:1 RSV). He was to act to bring men and God together. The barrier was/is sin. The Old Testament sacrificial system was an expression of the divine wrath toward sin, faith in the desire of God to forgive sin, and anticipation of things to come. Jesus by his death delivers those who believe from their sin. He is Savior. The whole sacrificial system of the old covenant points to Jesus. He died once for all. He will return to assure the benefits of his sacrifice for all who exercise faith in him.